

KENTUCKY BOARD OF NURSING
312 Whittington Parkway, Suite 300
Louisville, Kentucky 40222-5172
<http://kbn.ky.gov>

ADVISORY OPINION STATEMENT

**SCOPE OF REGISTERED NURSING PRACTICE IN THE DEACTIVATION OF
INTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR**

INTRODUCTION

The Kentucky Board of Nursing is authorized by Kentucky Revised Statutes (KRS) Chapter 314 to regulate nurses, nursing education and practice, and to issue advisory opinions on nursing practice, in order to assure that safe and effective nursing care is provided by nurses to the citizens of the Commonwealth.

This AOS is written to provide an opinion on whether it is within the scope of registered nursing practice for the registered nurse who is educationally prepared and clinically competent to apply a magnet to temporarily disable an Automatic Implanted Cardioverter Defibrillator (AICD).

Accountability and Responsibility of Nurses

The Kentucky Nursing Laws (KRS Chapter 314) -- KRS 314.021(2) holds nurses individually responsible and accountable for rendering safe, effective nursing care to clients and for judgments exercised and actions taken in the course of providing care.

KRS 314.021(2) imposes individual responsibility upon nurses. Acts which are within the permissible scope of practice for a given licensure level may be performed only by those licensees who personally possess the education and skill proficiency to perform those acts in a safe, effective manner.

Nursing practice should be consistent with the *Kentucky Nursing Laws*, established standards of practice, and be evidence based.

Advisory Opinion

After review of the statutes governing nursing practice, curricula of pre-licensure and continuing education nursing programs, standards of nursing practice, and evidence based articles; the Kentucky Board of Nursing issued this advisory opinion statement.

It is within the scope of registered nursing practice for the registered nurse who is educationally prepared and clinically competent to apply a magnet to temporarily disable an Automatic Implanted Cardioverter Defibrillator (AICD) when the following conditions are met:

A patient specific order is written by an appropriate prescriber:

1. A physician or APRN is in attendance the entire time that the magnet is attached to the patient
2. Cardiac monitoring is continuously performed
3. An emergency cart must be immediately available
4. There must be written institutional policy and procedure describing the role of the registered nurse in this procedure
5. The registered nurse must be able to document the completion of appropriate education and clinical competence in the procedure
6. A complete nursing assessment must be performed and documented prior to each treatment
7. The AICD should be evaluated by the appropriate cardiac provider post procedure

In addition to the above, nurses caring for hospice patients should follow the position statement issued by the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization (NHPCO) titled "Care of Hospice Patients with Automatic Implantable Cardioverter-Defibrillators".

The Board determined that it is **not** within the scope of licensed practical nursing practice to apply a magnet to temporarily disable an Automatic Implanted Cardioverter Defibrillator (AICD).

Determining Scope of Practice

In addition to this advisory opinion statement, the Kentucky Board of Nursing has published "Scope of Practice Determination Guidelines" which contains a decision tree chart providing guidance to nurses in determining whether a selected act is within an individual nurse's scope of practice now or in the future. A copy of the guidelines may be downloaded from the Board's website at <http://kbn.ky.gov>.

Advisory opinion statements are issued by the Kentucky Board of Nursing as a guideline to licensees who wish to engage in safe nursing practice. As such, an opinion statement is not a regulation of the Board and does not have the force and effect of law.

References:

Kentucky Board of Nursing Survey. (2011). *Deactivation of Implantable Cardioverter-Defibrillator by Nurses*. Compiled by National Council of State Boards of Nursing February, 2011.

National Hospices & Palliative Care Organization.(2008). *Position Statement on the Care of Hospice Patients with Automatic Implantable Cardioverter-Defibrillators*. Retrieved February 28, 2011 from <http://www.nhpco.org>

O'Reilly, K.B.(2010). *Heart devices can be turned off near end of life*. Retrieved February 28, 2011 from <http://amednews.com>.

Paola, F. A., Walker, M.W. (2000). *Deactivating the Implantable Cardioverter-Defibrillator*. Retrieved February 28, 2011 from <http://www.medscape.com>,

Approved: 4/2012
Editorial Revision: 5/2012